



# 2010 International Military HIV/AIDS Conference (Arusha, Tanzania)



## U.S. Africa Command Vignette

Updated  
April 2010

***An epidemic of HIV/AIDS can be no less destructive than that of warfare itself by overwhelming health and social services, infecting high levels of human mobility and mortality, and by creating millions of orphans. HIV/AIDS can cause social and economic crises of unprecedented proportion and threaten the greater stability of nations and societies.—Tanzanian President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete***

### Overview

Representatives from 60 multinational militaries, including nearly 40 African militaries, attended the International Military HIV/AIDS Conference, April 12-15, 2010 in Arusha Tanzania.

The four-day conference, co-hosted by the Tanzania People's Defence Force and the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), represented one of the most inclusive international military partnerships ever undertaken, according to DOD officials.

### The Team

Participating in the event was a diverse group of nearly 300 international military leaders, HIV/AIDS specialists, and representatives from the U.S. DOD, U.S. Africa Command, and multilateral and non-governmental organizations.

### Objectives

The conference objectives were to:

- Highlight the role of leadership in implementing successful military HIV/AIDS programs;
- Exchange best practices in HIV prevention, care and treatment, and strategic information in the military context;
- Encourage and support military-to-military technical assistance and networking;



### The Bottom Line

Military representatives from all over the world gathered for a four-day conference in Arusha, Tanzania to share best practices in leadership, HIV prevention and treatment, and develop plans to combat HIV/AIDS.

*Photo: Tanzanian President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete gives a keynote address on the opening day of the International Military HIV/AIDS Conference, April 12, 2010.*

- And increase the number of militaries conducting HIV Seroprevalence and Behavior Epidemiology Risk Surveys (HIV SAVERS) and using data for evidence based on planning.

### Outcome

The conference addressed the growing global need for HIV/AIDS awareness, prevention, and treatment programs, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, which remains the region of the world most heavily affected. During plenary workshops and interactive sessions, participants discussed ways to combat the global pandemic, while sharing best practices in leadership, HIV prevention, treatment, and strategic information.

Health experts encouraged participants to “know their militaries’ HIV/AIDS Epidemic” through surveillance and data use. Surveillance data can serve as a baseline, evaluating the effectiveness of a nation’s HIV/AIDS programs and allowing them to improve them.

Strong leadership support was identified as a key element in coordinating the response to HIV/AIDS through education, testing, and counseling.

“The role of commanders,” said Major General Maurice Oyugi, Kenya Ministry of Defense, is to protect their troops by serving as role models, implementing testing, and offering counseling to all.”